

Section 2 : Conservation and Management of Resources for Development

Chapter 20 : Environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes including prevention of illegal international traffic in hazardous wastes

A. Promoting prevention and minimisation of hazardous waste.

The cost of generation, handling and disposal of hazardous waste is increasing. One of the first priorities is minimisation of waste.

Objectives

To reduce generation of hazardous wastes.

Activities

Governments should:

- avoid discrimination against environmentally sound recycled materials
- provide economic or regulatory incentives to industries to stimulate cleaner production methods, recycling and waste minimisation
- intensify research on cost effective alternatives for processes and substances that result in the generation of hazardous wastes
- establish domestic facilities to handle hazardous wastes of domestic origin
- promote the transfer of environmentally sound technologies and information regionally, nationally and internationally
- encourage industries to be transparent in their operations.

B. Promoting and strengthening institutional capacities in hazardous waste management

Many countries lack the capacity to manage hazardous waste due to inadequate infrastructure, deficiencies in regulatory frameworks, insufficient education and training programmes and lack of coordination between political and private sectors.

Objectives

To adopt legislative and regulatory measures at a national level for environmentally sound management of hazardous waste.

To establish comprehensive research programmes on hazardous wastes in all countries.

Activities

Governments should:

- establish public awareness and relevant education programmes on hazardous waste issues for industry, government workers and the general public
- establish and maintain inventories of hazardous wastes, treatment, disposal and recycling sites, contaminated sites and measures required to clean up contamination
- develop methods for the classification of hazardous wastes
- conduct exposure and health assessments on human and environmental health
- encourage the establishment of combined treatment/disposal facilities for hazardous wastes
- promote identification and clean up of sites of hazardous wastes with the application of the polluter pays
- ensure military establishments conform to their nationally applicable environmental norms in treatment and disposal of hazardous waste
- establish notification systems and registries of exposed populations and of adverse health effects and databases on risk assessments of hazardous wastes.

C. Promoting and strengthening international cooperation in the management of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes

Objectives

To facilitate and strengthen international cooperation in environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes.

To develop control procedures for the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes.

Activities

Governments should:

- incorporate the notification procedure in the Basel Convention into national legislation
- monitor and regulate the transboundary movement of hazardous waste
- develop and use appropriate methods for identifying, testing and classifying hazardous wastes
- develop environmentally and economically sound standards and principles for managing hazardous wastes.

D. Preventing illegal international traffic in hazardous waste

The prevention of the illegal trafficking of hazardous wastes will benefit the environment and public health in all countries. It will enhance the status of existing international conventions on such activities.

Objectives

To detect and halt any illegal trade in hazardous wastes.

Activities

Governments should:

- adopt and implement legislation to prevent illegal import and export of hazardous waste
- develop appropriate national enforcement programmes to monitor compliance with such legislation, detect and deter violations through appropriate penalties
- exchange information on illegal transboundary movements of hazardous wastes.